

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 2, 8-9, 11-12, 14, 16, and 18-20 without prejudice.

Please amend Claim 1 as follows.

1. (Currently amended): A catheter comprising a tip end portion which is formed of a single-pipe tube and is adapted to be implanted in an abdominal cavity and a projection portion which is projected outside from an abdomen outer wall, and in which a plurality of through-hole rows, which are made up of pluralities of through-holes for draining formed to penetrate a side wall of the single-pipe tube and to be separated by a predetermined interval along an axial direction of the single-pipe tube, are formed at the tip end portion,

wherein a plurality of grooves are provided at the tip end portion, a single each individual groove of the plurality of grooves, corresponding to each of said through-hole rows, communicates with a plurality of said through-holes for draining at side surfaces of said through-holes for draining along a direction in which said through-hole row extends, and said each groove is narrower than a diameter of said through-hole and is formed only at an outer peripheral surface of said tip end.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented): The catheter of Claim 1, further comprising a cuff for fixing said catheter to an abdominal portion.

4. (Previously presented): The catheter of Claim 1, wherein said groove is formed along an entire length of said tip end portion.

5. (Previously presented): The catheter of Claim 1, wherein width of said groove is 0.1 mm to 0.8 mm.

6. (Previously presented): The catheter of Claim 1, wherein said through-holes for draining are side holes.

7. (Previously presented): The catheter of Claim 1, wherein said groove is a slit which is not closed even by soft tissue of an intraperitoneal organ.

8-9 (Cancelled)

10. (Previously presented): The catheter of Claim 3, wherein said groove is formed along an entire length of said tip end portion.

Appl. No. : **10/018,637**
Filed : **June 7, 2002**

11-12 (Cancelled)

13. (Previously presented): The catheter of Claim 3, wherein width of said groove is 0.1 mm to 0.8 mm.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously presented): The catheter of Claim 4, wherein width of said groove is 0.1 mm to 0.8 mm.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously presented): The catheter of Claim 10, wherein width of said groove is 0.1 mm to 0.8 mm.

18-20 (Cancelled)